

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

11-159

Orleans

EAS.1280

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Town Center

Photograph



Address: 340 Great Pond Road

Historic Name: Robert C. and Donna L. Westenberg House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: 1934

Source: Eastham Tax Commitment records

Style/Form: No Style/ Bungalow

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Molded concrete block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None on record

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.10 acres

Setting: This property is situated within the ponds region west of Eastham Center. The surrounding area includes other 20th century cottages and houses. This parcel rises up from the street. The house is set back on its parcel and accessed by an asphalt driveway off Colony Road. The parcel is left in a natural wooded state along Great Pond Road, partially obscuring the house from view.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

340 GREAT POND ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Robert C. and Donna L. Westenberg House, built in 1934, is a 1½-story house with characteristics typical of a bungalow - most notably, the side-gable form of the main block with projecting eaves and low-pitched shed dormers on both sides. On the northeast elevation, partially obscured from view, there is a one-story ell/addition with a lower-pitched shed roof. The building rests on a molded concrete block foundation. The elevations are clad in weathered wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and a brick chimney rises from the rear roof slope. Windows are all modern, thermal 1/1 windows set in new, narrow surrounds.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

Colony Road was part of a subdivision established on an 11.5-acre parcel sold by Eastham residents John W. and Catherine Sparrow in June 1925 to multiple families from Uxbridge in Worcester County.¹ Interestingly, numerous cottage subdivisions in the western sections of Eastham were developed by or sold lots to families from Worcester County. In this case, the Uxbridge residents - Dr. Rev. Robert C. and Donna L. Westenberg, William L. and C. Adelaide Johnson, Harry C. and Carolyn C. Newell, Herbert and Maidie Rowley, and Fred S. and Maud K. Blanchard - formed the Uxbridge Colony Association, Inc. and transferred ownership of this land to that corporation in September 1925.² In 1926, the corporation recorded a subdivision entitled Plan of Pine Ridge with ten lots (Figure 2).³ Perhaps because some of the parcels were intended for themselves, the lots are unusually large for early-20th century cottage colony development. Each parcel in the subdivision also has access and ownership rights to a portion of the shore along Deborah's Pond south of and abutting the subdivision.

This parcel, identified as Tract III, was sold in 1930 to one of the founders of the Uxbridge Colony Association, Inc. - Lee D. and Robert C. Westenberg of Uxbridge.⁴ While prepared in 1926, the Pine Ridge subdivision plan was not recorded in the Barnstable Registry until 1946. The 1946 plan was annotated to say it was created in 1946 by Hayward & Hayward from tracing a blueprint of the 1926 plan. They also appear to have written in the names of the subsequent owners, including "R. C. Westenberg" (who is also shown owning Tract VIII).

¹ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 418/ Page 247.

² Book 395/ Page 186.

³ Plan Book 82/ Page 103.

⁴ Book 473/ Page 33 (that same day, sales of other Tracts were sold to other founders).

340 GREAT POND ROAD

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This cottage first appears in the Eastham Tax Commitment records in 1934, with a value of \$1700. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) began conducting periodic aerial photographic surveys of Cape Cod in 1938. That first survey in 1938 shows this cottage and its context at that time (Photo 2). In 1939, the Westenbergs sold this property back to themselves as well as to three of their daughters and sons-in-law: Dorothy and Carl W. Hillberg of Minneapolis, MN, Marion and Eugene K. Bramhall of Granby, CT, and Roberta (Donna) and H. Dudley MacFarlane of North Brook, IL.⁵ In 1948, they sold this property out of the family to Abbott S. and Marion T. Knowles of Orleans, MA.⁶ The Knowles owned this property until 1952, when they sold it to Harry and Pearl Taylor of NY, NY.⁷ Pearl Taylor was living in Devon, PA in 1992 when she sold it to John K. and Katherine W. Humphries of Niantic, CT.⁸ This property remains in the Humphries family.

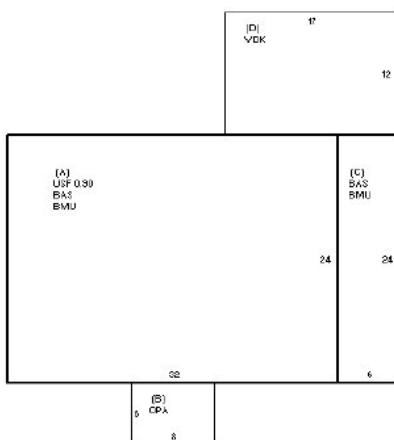




Photo 2. 1938 USGS aerial survey photograph (arrow added).

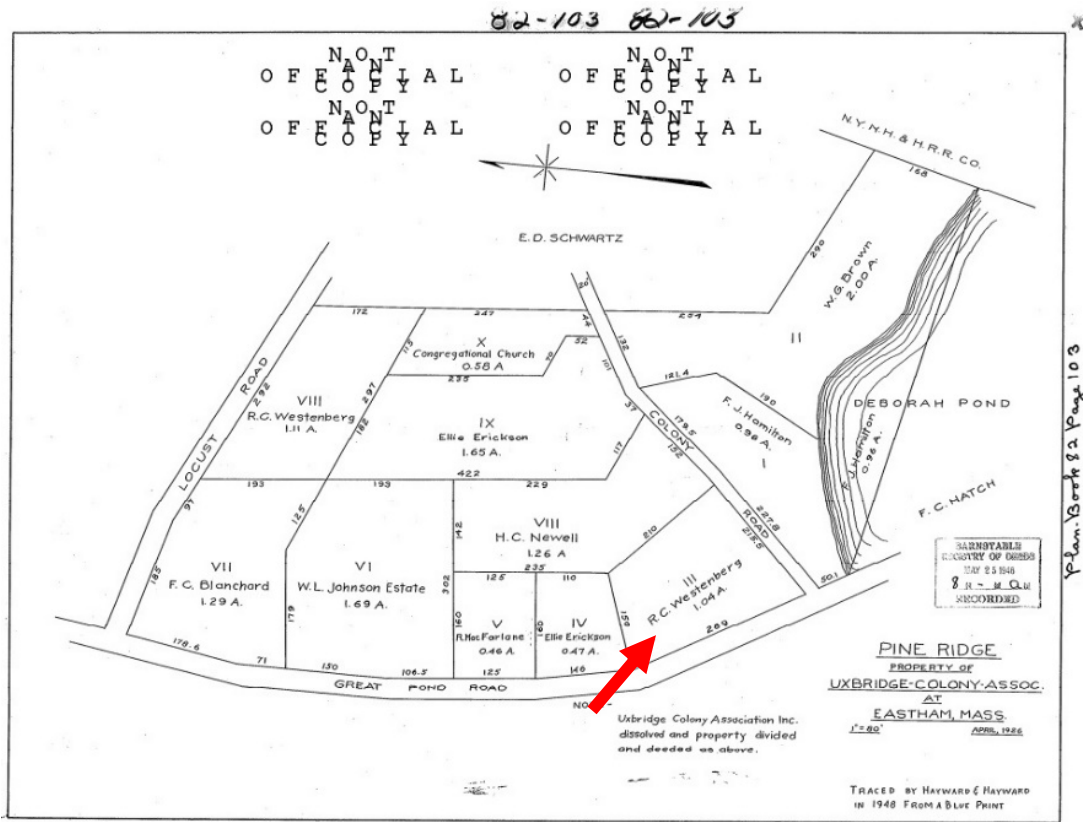


Figure 2. 1926 Pine Ridge subdivision, recorded 1946 (arrow to Lot III added).